

Message Text

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51
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /062 W
----- 015163

R 151005Z APR 75
FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4555
INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 0421

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SF
SUBJECT: LABOR PARTY REJECTS INVITATION TO SUBMIT
NOMINATIONS FOR CRC SEATS

REF: CAPE TOWN 0350

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. LABOR PARTY'S NATIONAL EXECUTIVE HAS ENDORSED LEON AS CHAIRMAN OF CRC EXECUTIVE BUT HAS CALLED ON HIM TO WITHDRAW PROPOSALS FOR NOMINATIVE MEMBERS. THIS REPRESENTS SOME LOSS OF FACE FOR LEON AND PRESAGES MORE CONFRONTATION THAN COOPERATION BETWEEN CRC'S NEW MAJORITY PARTY AND GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. THE LABOR PARTY'S NATIONAL EXECUTIVE, MEETING AT UITENHAGE OVER WEEKEND, REVIEWED PARTY CAUVUS'S APPROVAL OF LEON'S ACCEPTANCE TO CHAIR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF COLORED PERSONS REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (CRC) AND OF HIS PROPOSAL OF CANDIDATES FOR CRC NOMINATIONS (REFTEL).

3. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE ENDORSED LEON'S ACCEPTANCE OF CRC EXECUTIVE CHAIRMANSHIP; INDICATED THAT PARTY CAUCUS WOULD
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NOMINATE CANDIDATES FOR OTHER FOUR SEATS ON CRC EXECUTIVE

AND FOR CRC CHAIRMAN (I.E., SPEAKER); BUT CALLED FOR WITHDRAWAL OF LEON'S NOMINEES FOR APPOINTIVE SEATS IN CRC.
STATEMENT ISSUED AT CONCLUSION OF UITENHAGE MEETING SAID LEON HAD AGREED TO EXECUTIVE'S DECISION AND HAD SO INFORMED MINISTER OF COLORED AFFAIRS. STATEMENT WENT ON TO ADMIT THAT DIFFERENCES AS TO TACTICS HAD EXISTED WITHIN PARTY'S RANKS BUT THAT THERE WAS UNANIMITY AS TO ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE OF USING THE CRC AS A MEANS OF BRINGING ABOUT "TOTAL EMANCIPATION OF OUR PEOPLE." STATEMENT CONCLUDED PARTY HAD EMERGED STRONGER AND MORE CONSOLIDATED FROM THE EXECUTIVE MEETING.

4. SECRETARY OF CRC HAS INFORMED CONGEN THAT FIRST MEETING OF SECOND CRC WILL BE HELD ON MAY 13 WHEN CRC WILL VOTE ON LABOR PARTY'S NOMINEES FOR MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE AND CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL. CRC WILL THEN MOST PROBABLY BE PROROGUED BY MINISTER OF COLORED AFFAIRS. MEANWHILE, MINISTER WILL SUBMIT LEON'S CANDIDACY FOR CHAIRMAN OF EXECUTIVE TO ACTING STATE PRESIDENT FOR APPROVAL AND WILL PROCEED WITH APPOINTMENT OF TWENTY NOMINATIVE MEMBERS OF CRC. CRC SECRETARY SPECULATED THAT EIGHT FEDERAL PARTY MEMBERS AND EIGHT "NON-POLITICAL" PERSONS WOULD BE APPOINTED, IN ADDITION TO TRADITIONAL TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF GRIQUA COLORED COMMUNITY AND TWO OF CAPE MALAY COMMUNITY.

5. COMMENT: OPEN BREACH WITHIN LABOR PARTY HAS THUS BEEN AVOIDED FOR TIME BEING, BUT WITH SOME LOSS OF FACE FOR LEON. LABOR WILL NOW CONTROL CRC WITH ONLY SLIM MAJORITY RATHER THAN COMFORTABLE ONE IT WOULD HAVE HAD WERE IT TO HAVE ACCEPTED MINISTER'S INVITATION TO PROPOSE SOME NOMINATIVE MEMBERS. DECISION REFLECTS BOTH PARTY'S OPPOSITION TO CONCEPT OF NOMINATIVE SEATS--WHICH IS WIDELY VIEWED AMONG PARTY LEADERS AS INVIDIOUS ILLUSTRATION OF GOVERNMENT'S PATRONIZING CONTROL OF COLORED POLITICAL AFFAIRS--AS WELL AS ITS DISINCLINATION TO CONTRIBUTE TO STRENGTHENING OF CRC AS AN INSTRUMENT OF GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT. AS THINGS LOOK NOW, SECOND CRC IS LIKELY TO BE STORMY EXPERIENCE IN CONFRONTATIONS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NOMINATION, ELECTIONS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, INVITATIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAPET00421
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750131-0266
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750449/aaaabtot.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 CAPE TOWN 0350
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LABOR PARTY REJECTS INVITATION TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS FOR CRC SEATS
TAGS: PINT, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006